

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling a heating plant comprising at least one heating element (8) adapted for locally heating of a surface, at a low power consumption, to avoid ice or snow on the surface, characterized in that

- regional meteorological data are obtained, in particular related to regional temperature progress and anticipated regional precipitation,
- an activating signal (15) is transmitted at a point of time deduced from meteorological data,
- said activating signal (15) is further transmitted to at least one remotely operated unit (4) connected to the heating element(s) (8) and is operating these elements, and
- that the point of time for transmitting the activating signal (15,16) is determined in such a manner that the heating element(s) (8) is/are passivated during cold periods without precipitation, but all the same is/are activated at a certain adjustable point of time succeeding the point of time when precipitation is anticipated according to the regional meteorological data.

2. A method as stated in claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the heating elements (8) within the region also is/are controlled by at least one locally arranged humidity and/or temperature detector (6) registering local humidity and/or local temperature close to the heating element(s) (8).

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the exactly point of time for transmitting the activating signal (15) and thereby activating/passivating the heating element(s) (8), is adjusted in dependence of the regional temperature progress.

4. A method as stated in claim 2, used with a heating plant comprising several heating elements (8) distributed over one geographic region having substantially the equal meteorological conditions, characterized in that

- a reference plant (10) controlling at least one heating element (8) is selected as the only plant receiving the activating signal (15) directly and also being controlled by this signal

within this region, while at least one different heating plant (7) within the same region is/are controlled by further remotely controlling signals (16) generated in or re-transmitted from said reference plant (10).

5. A method as stated in claim 1, characterized in that the activating signals (15) are based on information delivered by the public meteorological forecast services.

6. A control system for at least one heating plant provided with at least one heating element (8) and adapted for heating of one or several-surfaces by power supply from a power source (11) for avoiding ice and snow generation on the surface(s), at a low power consumption, characterized in that the control system comprises:

- a control central (1) adapted to transmit an activating signal (15) via an existing communication network (2,3) at a point of time depending on regional meteorological data,
- a control system (9,10) adapted to receive an activating signal (15) and provided with at least one remotely controlled unit (4) adapted to be effected by the activating signal (15); so that the power amount transmitted from the power source (11) to the heating element(s) (8) is changed dependent of the regional meteorological data.

7. A control system for a heating plant as stated in claim 6, characterized in that the control system (9,10) comprises an exchange (5) adapted to react on locally detected temperature and humidity values, detected by at least one local detector (6), and also to react on the received activating signal(s) (15).

8. A control system as stated in claim 4, characterized in that the system comprises several controllable heating elements (8) distributed over several separated heating plants distributed over a region with substantially equal weather conditions, that one of the heating plants within a region represents a regional weather station (10) acting as a reference plant and provided with a modem (14) adapted for transmitting a remotely operating signal (1) to the remaining satellite plants (7) within the region, while each satellite station (7) comprises a heating plant controlled only by an activating signal (16) from the regional weather station (10).

9. A control system for a heating plant as stated in claim 6, and where the energy is supplied as electrical A.C. energy, characterized in that said remotely operated element comprises a controllable contactor (e.g. a thyristor or varistor controlled contactor) being able to supply the street surface with a variable amount of energy by varying the duty cycle of the working current.